

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**Minutes of the Thirty-third Meeting of the
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
Board of Scientific Counselors**

March 28, 2008

The NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors meeting was convened at 8:00 AM (EST), March 28, 2008. Dr. Paul A. Fuchs presided as Chair.

Members present:

Dr. Paul A. Fuchs, Chair

Dr. Richard E. Cheney
Dr. Richard Chole
Dr. Ronald Hoy

Dr. M. Charles Liberman
Dr. Nirupa Chaudhari

NIDCD Staff:

Dr. James F. Battey, Jr., Director, NIDCD
Dr. David Robinson, Acting Director, Division of Intramural Research, NIDCD

Ad Hoc Reviewer:

Dr. Dennis Freeman

Other NIH Staff:

Dr. Rowland Owens, DDIR

Administrative Business

Dr. Fuchs called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM (EST). The minutes of the October 19, 2007 meeting of the NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors were approved as submitted.

Dr. Robinson discussed the rules of conduct for intermittent government employees and consultants and the need for confidentiality.

NIDCD Director's Report

Dr. Battey expressed his continued appreciation for the efforts of the Board in reviewing DIR. The current NIDCD operating budget is flat which represents a decrease in real dollars. The NIDCD pay line is currently 21% which is lower than in years past but not as low as other Institutes. There is now a decline in the number of grant applications to the NIDCD as well as to other Institutes. There are also other signs of the budget impacting young scientists. There was a detailed discussion of pilot review processes which are being considered by the Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Battey supports those changes which will have obvious benefits with little risk.

NIDCD Acting Scientific Director's Report

Dr. Robinson expressed his gratitude to the regular and the *ad hoc* members of the Board for their valuable contributions to the DIR. In December, Dr. Wenthold underwent an external review of his leadership and administrative performance. Extensive information was compiled prior to the on-campus meeting of the Workgroup. Several senior staff members and Intramural scientists were interviewed. The final report is expected in the near future. This meeting of the Board was the last for Drs. Chaudhari, Fuchs, and Meisler, and Dr. Robinson expressed his appreciation for their superb efforts and presented them with framed certificates of appreciation.

CLOSED SESSION

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S. Code and Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).

During the remainder of the closed session, the Board reviewed one tenured scientist.

NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research Report:

Dr. Rowland Owens, on behalf of Dr. Michael Gottesman, Deputy Director for Intramural Research, thanked the Board members and the *ad hoc* reviewer for their services and discussed their review of the tenured scientist.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 11:50 AM on March 28, 2008.

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes of the NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors meeting are accurate and correct. 1

Date

James Battey, M.D., Ph.D.
Acting Executive Secretary
Board of Scientific Counselors
NIDCD

Date

Paul A. Fuchs, Ph.D.
Chair
Board of Scientific Counselors
NIDCD

1 These minutes will be formally considered by the Board of Scientific Counselors at its next meeting: corrections and notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.